

Friday, November 07, 2008

[From the Coeur d'Alene Press](#)

- No new education news stories posted online today.

[From the Spokesman-Review](#)

- No new education news stories posted online today.

[From the Moscow Pullman Daily News \(password required\)](#)

- Palouse child-care center hits milestone

[From the Lewiston Tribune \(password required\)](#)

- Idaho gives tutoring firm another chance

[From the Idaho-Press Tribune, Nampa](#)

- Idaho gives tutoring company another chance

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- Multi-ethnic students invited to BSU Mosaic

[From the Twin Falls Times-News](#)

- Heading skyward
- Idaho gives tutoring company another chance

[From the Idaho State Journal \(password Required\)](#)

- No new education news stories posted online today.

[From the Idaho Falls Post Register \(password required\)](#)

- Idaho may drop ISAT Company
- School board balks at 'Brave New World'

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FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

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FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Palouse child-care center hits milestone

School district-operated facility celebrates five-year anniversary; won't have to repay USDA grant

By Yesenia Amaro, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Thursday, November 06, 2008

Amy Wilson said she would do anything to help Little Sprouts Child Care and Early Learning Center in Palouse continue to offer its services to the community.

"It means a lot for the community," she said of the child-care center operated by the Palouse School District. "I would be sad if they tell me that I have to look for a day care, and it would be inconvenient."

The Palouse School District recently met a requirement to keep the day care operating for five years. Superintendent Bev Fox said the district received a \$25,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2003 to help the get the child-care center off the ground.

The district would have had to return the \$25,000 to the USDA if the center had closed before the five years were up.

Fox said a USDA representative visited the child-care center each year to make sure things were going well and to remind district officials that it was still under the five-year probationary period.

"Now that we don't have to worry about paying (the money) back it makes us feel good continuing to run it," she said. "It is a really nice feeling to have that not hanging over our heads."

Fox said the center has been a benefit for the district and the community in general.

"Parents have been able to keep their children in this district," she said. "It has been a positive change. It's been a huge benefit to marketing the community."

She said the community's support has kept Little Sprouts from closing.

Wilson lives in Palouse, but works in Pullman. She's not alone.

Little Sprouts Child Care Supervisor Trisha Rorr said most of the parents who use the child-care center work at Washington State University and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories in Pullman.

Rorr said many parents rely on the child-care center as it's the only one in town.

"It's good being able to stay open to make sure that (parents) have somewhere to take their kids after school and during the day when they work," she said.

Wilson's 3-year old daughter, Blair, spends her days at Little Sprouts, and she also takes her 8-year old daughter, Briana, to the center during the summer.

Wilson has been taking Blair to the day-care center since she was 8 months old.

"I feel comfortable as a parent," she said, adding that staff tend to have more interaction with the children than at other day-care centers.

Little Sprouts may serve as a model for other rural school districts.

Garfield School District officials are discussing the possibility of offering child-care services to help retain students, and the Colton School District took over a child-care center this fall to prevent the state from shutting it down.

Colton Superintendent C. Dale Foley declined to comment on the child-care center.

Colfax School District Superintendent Michael Morgan said his district doesn't operate a day-care center, but it does provide a facility to the Pullman-based Community Childcare Center based, which runs a day-care center that is housed at Jennings Elementary School.

Morgan said it is nice that the district does not have to worry about the challenges that come with running a day-care center, but that it's an important asset.

"We provide the facility as a service to the community," he said.

Yesenia Amaro can be reached at (208) 882-5561, ext. 237, or by e-mail at yamaro@dnnews.com.

FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Idaho gives tutoring firm another chance

Associated Press

Friday, November 7, 2008

BOISE - The state Department of Education has given a Minnesota company another 90-day extension to align its tutoring programs in public schools with Idaho requirements for math, reading and language.

In 2004, the state Board of Education contracted with PLATO Learning Inc. to improve student test scores that determine how Idaho schools are performing under the federal No Child Left Behind law.

The Bloomington, Minn.-based company has been paid more than \$5 million during the past four years to implement its computer-based tutoring programs in Idaho elementary, middle and high schools.

The Education Department began supervising the programs last year and determined that fewer than one third were in compliance with statewide standards for math, reading and language.

In an Oct. 30 memo to school administrators, public schools chief Tom Luna said the PLATO programs were never measured against the Idaho standards while they were under the state Board of Education.

In 2004, PLATO indicated it had aligned its programs with Idaho standards, said Marilyn Davis, the education board's chief academic officer at the time.

During a review last year, the state Education Department found only nine of the 33 PLATO programs being used in Idaho schools met state requirements.

The department paid PLATO Learning \$600,000 during the past fiscal year, which ended in June, for the tutoring programs that many public schools rely on to help students in second-through 12th grades improve their scores on the Idaho Standards Achievement Tests.

When the contract expired this summer, Luna offered a three-month extension and paid \$150,000 to the company in hopes it would bring the programs up to par. PLATO has since shown some progress toward meeting the statewide standards, said state Department of Education spokeswoman Melissa McGrath.

The department has offered PLATO another three-month contract extension and requested the company bring at least 80 percent of the programs in line with Idaho requirements, McGrath said.

"We want them to be 80 percent or higher before we pay the full contract," she said.

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

Idaho gives tutoring company another chance

By JESSIE L. BONNER
Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho (AP) -- The state Department of Education has given a Minnesota company another 90-day extension to align its tutoring programs in public schools with Idaho requirements for math, reading and language.

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"I don't think we took it any further than that," said Davis, who is now a college dean at Idaho State University.

During a review last year, the state Education Department found only nine of the 33 PLATO programs being used in Idaho schools met state requirements.

"As state superintendent, I cannot in good conscience spend Idaho taxpayer dollars on the remainder of this contract knowing it does not meet the standards we have set for Idaho students," Luna wrote in his memo to school administrators.

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FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

Multi-ethnic students invited to BSU Mosaic

- STATESMAN STAFF

Edition Date: 11/07/08

More than 300 high school students are expected to attend Mosaic, a campus visitation program for multi-ethnic students interested in attending Boise State University.

The program is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 14 in the Student Union.

Mosaic will feature keynote speaker Harvey Alston, an advocate for student success. Breakout sessions about financial aid, campus housing and student involvement will follow.

Students also may attend presentations from various academic programs. Representatives from all academic departments on campus will be available to talk to students at the afternoon academic reception.

For more information or to register, contact Everardo Torrez at (208) 426-3038 or everardotorrez@boisestate.edu.

FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

Heading skyward

Framework for new CSI medical building takes shape

By Ben Botkin

Times-News writer

The outline of the College of Southern Idaho's new Health Sciences and Human Services building is beginning to take shape.

Construction workers have started this week to put up the structural framework that will support the walls. The new building, when complete, will be a 72,400-square-foot facility that will allow the college to expand its health programs classes.

"If the weather cooperates, we'll start to see some steel up this week," said Michael Arrington, president of Starr Corporation, the contractor building the project.

The building is still on track to be ready when classes begin in January 2010, said Mike Mason, vice president of administration.

The building is being built as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified (LEED) structure. As a result, the entire building was planned with the goal of having the least environmental impact possible.

There will be visible signs of that goal both during the project and after it's finished.

For example, there are recycling bins that construction crews are using to recycle any unused materials, said Mark Sugden, instructional dean overseeing health, human services and biology.

"Generally, it's well known there's a lot of cost in unused material in construction and those days are over when you're talking about LEED because that's what they're trying to minimize," Sugden said.

The materials that will be used for construction include recycled carpeting and recycled glass for countertops, Sugden said.

There will be recycling bins in the building after it's finished too.

Energy savings are another part of the LEED certification. For example, the building was designed with windows to make optimal use of daylight, cutting down on the need for electric lights.

It's also possible that the building will have a solar energy component, but that's unknown until college officials find out if they'll receive a federal grant, Mason said.

The building will have eight classrooms, three lecture halls, program and computer labs, six study rooms, a commons area and 26 faculty offices.

Sugden's looking forward to having more space and room for more students.

"All of our offices have two and three people in them even though they're designed for one," he said.

The building is being paid with \$21 million of state funding.

Ben Botkin may be reached at 208-735-3238 or bbotkin@magicvalley.com.

Idaho gives tutoring company another chance

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A service of the Associated Press(AP)

N. Idaho school board balks at 'Brave New World'

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho - A northern Idaho school board has balked at allowing Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" to be read by students because of the way the book deals with sex.

At a Coeur d'Alene School District board meeting Monday, members split 2-2 on whether to allow teachers to use the book in class.

"I find, from my own level, it is extremely repetitious and it drives in the sexuality issues and other civilization's issues to almost ad nauseam and I find its balance is extremely lacking," said board member Vern Newby.

The book will be considered again next month when all five board members are expected to be present.

Published in 1932, "Brave New World" portrays a future society designed to eliminate human discomfort, and where humans themselves are engineered to fill jobs in different levels of society.

Board member Edie Brooks voted in favor of putting the book on the list of approved reading materials. She said she hadn't read the book, but had talked to students who had read it and told her it was thought-provoking and contained themes that remain relevant.

A 25-member book review committee made up mainly of community members recommended the board approve the book.

Rosie Astorquia, the district's director of secondary education, presented a review of the committee's recommendation to the board.

"We had quite a bit of discussion on both sides of whether this was an appropriate book or not," Astorquia said.

Some comments from committee members, she said, included that "sexual drug-related references were non-explicit but showed what life might be like if the world were full of casual sex and drug satisfaction with no relationship or love."

Mackenzie Sheldon and Jamie Yurick, both freshmen at Lake City High School, said they didn't think books should be restricted from use in the classroom.

But they also noted that certain language being read aloud made them uncomfortable.

A service of the Associated Press(AP)

FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Idaho may drop ISAT Company

State hired Minn.-based PLATO Learning to raise test scores
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOISE -- The state Department of Education is threatening to drop a Minnesota-based company hired in 2004 to help students who struggle on statewide tests.

The Idaho Standards Achievement Tests determine how schools are performing under the federal No Child Left Behind law.

The state Board of Education signed a \$5 million contract with the Minnesota-based company, PLATO Learning, four years ago for computer-based programs designed to help student improve on the tests.

The state Department of Education took over the programs last year.

Public schools chief Tom Luna said his department has found that less than one third of the programs the PLATO Learning company has implemented in Idaho classrooms are in compliance with state standards for math, reading and language.

Luna has given the company 90 days to bring the programs in line with state requirements.

School board balks at 'Brave New World'

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